

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 18443

EXDIS/STADIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: IEA: US-ITALIAN ENERGY COOPERATION

REF: STATE 168235

1. DEPSEC GEN WOOTTON INFORMS US THAT GOI AMBASSADOR TO OECD, LUCIANO CONTI, GAVE HIM THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION RECENTLY CONCERNING ITALIAN POSITION ON IEA ISSUES:

2. CONTI SAID THAT MAGLIANO (DCM IN ITALIAN OECD DELEGATION) HAD TAKEN VERY HARD LINE AT JUNE 31-JULY 2 GB MEETING UNDER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM MR. MANZINI, GENERAL-SECRETARY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER, AND THE MOST SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT IN THE MFA. (NOTE: OTHER SOURCES IN ITALIAN DELEGATION HERE HAVE ALSO INFORMED US MAGLIANO WAS OPERATING UNDER PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS.) CONTI SAID THAT ENDERS' CONTACTS IN ROME WERE PRIMARILY WITH UNDER-SECRETARY BATTAGLIA, WHO (CONTI SAYS) HAS LITTLE CONTROL OVER POSITION ACTUALLY TAKEN BY GOI REPS AT IEA MEETINGS. CONTI SUGGESTED MANZINI NEEDS TO BE CULTIVATED IN ADDITION TO BATTAGLIA, AND SUGGESTED THIS BE ARRANGED BEFORE JULY 28 GB MEETING.

3. CONTI, WHO DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS VERY PRO-AMERICAN AND PRO-NATO, HINTED THAT HE FEELS CUT OUT OF THE ACTION ON ENERGY SIDE AND SUGGESTED HE WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO ENDERS
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BEFORE THE NEXT GB MEETING.

4. COMMENT: WE PASS ABOVE INFO ON FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH. CONTI HAS A REPUTATION HERE OF BEING SOMEWHAT OF A DILETTANTE, RARELY SHOWING UP AT OECD MEETINGS. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF WHAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIM AND HIS DCM (WHO IS VERY ACTIVE AT OECD MEETINGS) MAY BE OR WHAT AXE (IF ANY) HE MAY HAVE TO GRIND IN PASSING ON THIS INFORMATION TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS. OUR GENERAL IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, IS THAT, AT LEAST AT THE FEW IEA MEETINGS AT WHICH HE HAS SPOKEN, HE HAS BEEN MUCH MORE HELPFUL TO THE U.S. POSITION THAN MAGLIANO HAS BEEN. IN FACT, MAGLIANO IS RAPIDLY DEVELOPING VERY NEGATIVE REPUTATION AMONG OTHER IEA DELEGATIONS HERE FOR HIS TIME-CONSUMING AND OBSTRUCTIONIST FORENSIC DISPLAYS AT IEA MEETINGS.

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